



AF  
JFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of  
**Foster et al.**

Serial No.: 10/810,139

Filed: March 26, 2004

For: **Coupling Retraction Mechanism For An  
Image Forming Device**

Attorney's Docket No: 2002-0856.02/4670-240

**Patent Pending**

Examiner: Dixomara Vargas

Group Art Unit: 2859

Confirmation No: 8845

Raleigh, North Carolina  
March 10, 2006

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED 19 DECEMBER 2005**

Applicants submit the following response in reply to the Office Action mailed on the above indicated date. Pursuant to a telephone conversation between the undersigned and Diego Gutierrez on 8 March, 2006, it was agreed that the Office Action mailed on 19 December 2005 was incorrectly designated as a "Final" Office Action. The examiner introduces new grounds for rejection (based on the *Tanizaki* et al. reference) that are neither necessitated by Applicants' amendment of the claims (independent claim 34 has never been amended) nor based on information submitted in an information disclosure statement (no IDS was submitted). Accordingly, Applicants' respectfully request withdrawal of the "Final" Office Action designation. Reconsideration and reexamination of all claims are respectfully requested in light of the remarks below. Applicants believe that no fees should be required by this response. However, if any further fees or charges are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account 18-1167.